

Studies Directed Pursuant to SB 1/EN 2009 RS

Alignment Studies

The Kentucky Department of Education shall conduct periodic alignment studies that compare the norm-referenced tests required in the state assessment program with the academic content standards in the different content areas to determine how well the norm-referenced tests align and adequately measure the depth of knowledge and breadth of Kentucky's academic content standards. Based on the findings, the Kentucky Board of Education may decrease the number of required criterion-referenced items in the state assessment program.

Review of Preparation of Teachers in Writing Instruction

During the calendar years of 2009 and 2010, the Kentucky Department of Education and the Education Professional Standards Board shall analyze results from state assessments related to writing to identify major weaknesses that may be attributed to the quality of writing instruction and consider where and how these skills should best be taught to teachers.

The Education Professional Standards Board shall conduct an analysis of the current requirements at the pre-service level for writing instruction and determine how writing instruction for prospective teachers can be enhanced or improved.

The Education Professional Standards Board shall consider the feasibility of requiring a course in teacher preparation programs in the teaching of writing for pre-service teachers or teachers pursuing Rank II certification.

The Department of Education shall review the availability of professional development opportunities to help teachers learn how to improve writing instruction, and to use available resources to provide needed training.

A Study Relating to Exceptional Children

The Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Board of Education shall facilitate an extensive review of how exceptional children's needs are being met through the required student assessment process and how student assessment requirements for exceptional children potentially hamper or enhance intellectual and emotional growth of individual students. They shall assess how current assessment procedures for exceptional children and the reporting requirements affect school performance classifications and whether changes need to be made as the revised assessment and accountability system is developed.

A Study and Development of a Plan to Reduce College Remediation Rates and Increase Graduation Rates

The Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Board of Education, and the Kentucky Department of Education shall investigate whether the current requirements for assessing college readiness are providing needed information, whether additional diagnostic assessments are needed, particularly in mathematics at the high school level, and whether accelerated learning programs have actually been implemented as statutorily required to address students' needs for instructional interventions in English, reading, and mathematics.